

Memorandum



Date: June 28, 2017

To: Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carlos A. Gimenez".

Subject: Mayoral Appointment – Director of Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the provisions of Section 2.02-C of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, effective August 1, 2017, I hereby appoint Ms. Maria I. Nardi as the Director of the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (MDPROS).

Ms. Nardi has served MDPROS with distinction since 2004. She is the Deputy Director of MDPROS and prior to this, she has been responsible for the department's Planning, Design and Construction Excellence Division and Park Stewardship Operations. The Planning, Design, and Construction Excellence Division is in charge of acquisition, planning, design, and construction of all park facilities, the recreation, health, and fitness program planning for PROS. This unit is responsible for managing more than \$300 million in General Obligation Bond projects, with an average capital expenditure of more than \$50 million a year, and for working closely with the community and creating invaluable partnerships with multiple agencies and organizations.

Ms. Nardi began her career with MDPROS as a Special Projects Administrator, where she led the development and implementation of MDPROS' national award-winning project: the Parks Masterplan. This Masterplan is designed to transform Miami-Dade County into a more livable and economically competitive community through parks, public spaces, and natural and historic areas connected by greenways, blueways and complete streets designed as linear parks. Ms. Nardi was then promoted to the Chief of Planning and Research, where she produced the successful implementation of the Parks Masterplan and its unanimous adoption by Board of County Commissioners as well as its subsequent incorporation into the Comprehensive Development Master Plan in 2009.

Ms. Nardi received her Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from the University of Miami and her Master's Degree with honors in Landscape Architecture from Harvard University. Prior to serving the County, she led the initiation of the national award-winning Miami21, the bold new zoning vision that continues to transform Miami to a more walkable and vibrant 21st century community. Ms. Nardi's expertise, experience, and collaborative leadership approach to building high performance teams make her the best choice to continue the legacy that our park system has achieved.

I am confident that Ms. Nardi will continue to lead MDPROS successfully as it addresses the challenges of our rapidly-evolving community. She has the leadership, talent and experience to capitalize on the exciting opportunities to serve and transform our community through parks' health and built environment initiatives, all of which is essential to grow an economically-vibrant, equitable and resilient community.

Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

Page 2

Please join me in congratulating Mr. Nardi on her appointment and we look forward to her leadership of our Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department. A copy of her resume is attached for your review.

c: Honorable Harvey Ruvin, County Clerk
Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney
Geri Bonzon-Keenan, First Assistant County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Christopher Agrippa, Clerk of the Board
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator
Neil R. Singh, Interim Commission Auditor

Maria I. Nardi

Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Harvard University Graduate School of Design: Master in Landscape Architecture 1995-1998
University of Miami School of Architecture: Bachelor of Architecture 1987-1991

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department

Deputy Director 2016-Present

Responsible for Park Stewardship Operations and Planning, Design and Construction Excellence Divisions. Responsible for the development of department wide strategic frameworks that connects policy and implementation to guide local, state and federal legislative platforms and initiatives. Responsible for acquisition, planning, design, property management including facility asset inventory and maintenance, pre-development approvals, recreation, health and fitness program planning and agricultural extension services. This unit of the department is responsible for design and construction of park facilities and for managing more than \$300 million in General Obligation Bond projects with an average capital expenditure of more than \$50 million a year.

Assistant Director of Planning and Design Excellence Division 2015-2016

Responsible for acquisition, planning, design, property management including facility asset inventory and maintenance, pre-development approvals, recreation, health and fitness program planning and agricultural extension services. This unit of the department is responsible for design and construction of park facilities and for managing more than \$300 million in General Obligation Bond projects with an average capital expenditure of more than \$50 million a year.

Chief of Planning and Design Excellence 2008-2015

Assistant to the Director, responsible for the development and implementation of key strategies and initiatives to advance the department mission and vision including: department Sustainability, Design Excellence, Health and Fitness, Conservation and Performance Excellence pillars; department realignment; capital development goals and priorities. Responsible for directing the implementation of the department's cornerstone projects; the award winning Parks Masterplan and the Recreation Program Plan that guide department wide policy and practices.

Led the successful implementation of the Parks Masterplan's unanimous approval by Board of County Commissioners in 2008 and incorporation into the Comprehensive Development Master Plan in 2009 the policies effecting department wide service delivery. Responsible for the development of the South Florida Park Coalition that resulted in 34 municipalities, two national parks and the School Board adopting the Masterplan goals and principles. Developed the Great Park Summit, a unique and signature event in our community that brings together national and local leaders and decision-makers to expand the discussion of parks and open spaces to address the larger aspects of the quality of life and economic prosperity of Miami-Dade County. Responsible for design and recreation program development of over 270 parks; managed over \$1 billion worth of real park property; developed park plans and recreation programs that guide operations and program delivery for local and regional parks; local and regional land acquisition strategies and the county's agriculture extension services .

Direct the Planning and Design Excellence Division to implement long and short range planning projects including the County's adopted Recreation Open Space, including: the strategy, design and implementation of projects like: The Underline, Ludlam Trail, Biscayne Everglades Greenway, Western Greenway, and 500 miles of trails. In partnership with UM School of Architecture and Medicine developed measures for health and fitness programs and park improvements, the implementation of Resiliency Centers and sea level rise strategies, and the development of masterplans for Heritage Parks, regional and local parks.

Represent the department at local, state and national forums including National Recreation and Park Association Conferences and Innovation Labs, White House Urban Affairs Advisor's Forum, Tufts University School of Medicine Public Health Dept, National PolicyLink Equity Summit, National American Public Health Association, National American Planning Association and its Florida Chapter, National American Institute of Architects Design Health Research Consortium, Robert Wood Johnson Active Living Research, City Park Alliance, University of Miami School of Architecture, Florida Recreation and Planning Association and multiple local organizations interested in advancing the goal to build

Maria I. Nardi

Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department

a strong, healthy, prosperous community.

Special Project Administrator

2004-2008

Directed the vision and development of the Parks Masterplan: a 50 year vision for a seamless and sustainable model park system for the 21st century. Assembled a multidisciplinary team of consultants including park professionals, landscape architects, urban designers, economists, environmental and transportation planners. The Masterplan was a response to unanimously approved by the Board of County Commissioners in 2008 and adopted as CDMP policy in

2009. It stands as a key guiding document for existing and future development to build a healthier community.

Managed Park System Planning staff and consultants on core division functions including: land acquisition, pre-development approvals, policy and long range planning, park design, recreation program plans and real property management.

City of Miami

Chief of Urban Design

1998-2004

Led the initiation of the national award-winning Miami21, the City of Miami's bold new zoning vision that continues to transform the City to a more walkable and vibrant 21st century community. This is the City of Miami's first master plan that encompasses the rewriting of the zoning code to establish a framework and build a more walkable community based on Smart Growth principles. It replaces traditional zoning code based on land use segregation to a SmartCode based on mixed use and walkability; the first form based code to be implemented at this scale in the country.

Led City of Miami's Parks Masterplan framework; led the development of Bicentennial Park (museum park) options - worked with elected officials, team of staff, consultants and community through a workshop attended by over 350 citizens and developed 3 alternative solutions for the future development of Bicentennial park.

Directed the development of key ordinances (tree and neighborhood conservation district NCD ordinances) to enhance quality of life and economic vitality of neighborhoods. NCD's enhance neighborhoods through architecture and landscape architecture guidelines for new development and the preservation of historic architecture and landscapes; developed multiple neighborhood plans and urban design standards to guide existing and future development builds a healthy pedestrian friendly community.

Ceo & Nardi Inc. Architecture, Landscape, Preservation and Urban Design Firm

1991-1995

Co-Principal

In partnership with Rocco Ceo and Margot Ammidown, Director of Miami Dade County Preservation Department, developed the Redland: A Preservation and Tourism Plan. The preservation of South Dade's historic architecture, landscape and agriculture district through the development of MDC Greenway System and an Agri-tourism Plan.

Developed the University of Miami's Gifford Arboretum plan vision that led the way for the University of Miami campus development as an arboretum. Co-designed multiple residential projects that included architecture and landscape.

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

American Journal of Preventive Medicine. 2016

"Neighborhood Greenness and Chronic Health Conditions in Medicare Beneficiaries,"

National Recreation and Park Association: "How Parks Create Healthier Communities" 2015

National Recreation and Park Association: "Masters of the Plan" 2012

Studio Works 6 Harvard University GSD Magazine 1998
2020 New York World's Fair

Maria I. Nardi

Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department

Studio Work 5 Harvard University GSD Magazine 1997
Swimming pool Hall in Waiden Pond, Ma.

Between Two Towers 1995
Author: Vincent Scully

The Monacelli Press
Interpretive Map of Coral Gables, Fl. 1925-1926

Metropolis: "Welcome to Miami" 1995
By Marisa Bartolucci

Redland - A Preservation and Tourism Plan 1993
Co-Author: Rocco Ceo, Maria Nardi, Margot Ammidown

AWARDS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Great Park Summit: MDPROS & Miami Foundation Achievement Award 2016

Mayor's Pioneer Award: In the Company of Women 2016

International Women's Forum Member 2015

National Recreation and Park Association Magazine Committee member 2015

National American Institute of Architects Design, Health and Research Consortium 2015

National Recreation and Park Association Health Committee member 2015

FASLA award for Haulover Park Planning Program Plan 2013

Led MDPROS selected as host of the First Lady's Let's Move Campaign celebration 2013

National Association of County Organizations Awards 2011, 2012, 2013

- City and County Partnership Summits 2011
- Make Healthy Happen Partnership 2012
- Red Fields to Green Fields (Best in Parks and Recreation Category) (2012)
- Park-School Partnership for Nature Preserve Management (2013)
- Access & Equity Plan (2013)

Miami-Dade Health Department Make Healthy Happen Award 2010

Urban Environment League Honor Award for Parks Masterplan 2008

University of Miami School of Architecture Alumna Award 2003 & 2008
Honor Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Architecture Profession
For Miami21 and the Miami-Dade Parks Masterplan

Harvard American Society of Landscape Architects 1998
Honor Award for Excellence in the Study of Landscape Architecture

Progressive Architecture International Urban Design Award 1995
Redland: A Preservation and Tourism Plan